



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

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## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Seward Neighborhood 9-28-11

**Cam's next Seward Office Hours:**  
**Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00am**  
**Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St**

### Items:

- 1) Minneapolis "One Read"
- 2) 2011 Budget
- 3) 2012 Budget
- 4) Pension Mergers
- 5) Bike Lanes on 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup>
- 6) 2600 Minnehaha
- 7) Neighborhood Funding
- 8) Managed Natural Landscape Ordinance
- 9) Food Policy Council
- 10) Justice in Seward Market Homicides
- 11) Charges in "Ped" Phanthavong Hit-and-Run
- 12) Farmers Market Ordinance Changes
- 13) Adult Day Care at Seward Square Apartments
- 14) Franklin Station Improvements
- 15) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) This fall the City is sponsoring a "One Read" effort that I hope will unite people by having many of us read the same book and start deeper conversations about race, family and the history of our City. The author and former Minneapolis resident, Michele Norris will discuss the book *the Grace of Silence* at the Guthrie **Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 7pm. You can purchase tickets at [www.GuthrieTheater.org](http://www.GuthrieTheater.org).
- 2) City's 2011 budget finally ended in September. Responding to cuts in funding from the state, the Council passed a plan that would have kept all current firefighters on the job until the end of this year. The Mayor vetoed that action, citing the fact that it was not balanced through the end of 2012. The Council failed to override his veto by an 8-5 vote. I voted for the initial motion, and voted to override the veto. A compromise budget solution that saved 4 of the 10 laid off firefighters through the end of 2012, by taking 2011 funding for 13 other unfilled City positions, passed unanimously. You can read more on my blog.
- 3) The 2012 budget approval process is well underway. The Mayor's proposal for no property tax levy increase in 2012 was approved by the Board of Estimate and Taxation in early September. To accomplish this, the Mayor has proposed budget cuts in many areas. You can find the rebroadcast schedule and also view the hearings online at [www.minneapolismn.gov/webcasts](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/webcasts). Final approval of the budget is scheduled for **December 14<sup>th</sup>**. Two public hearings will be held before the budget's approval, one on Wednesday, **Nov. 30**, 6:05 p.m. and one on Wednesday, **Dec. 14**, 6:05 p.m., both in City Hall, 350 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, room 317. For more information on the Mayor's proposed 2012 budget, see [www.minneapolismn.gov/mayor](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/mayor) and <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/city-budget/2012recc/index.asp>.
- 4) The Minneapolis Police and Fire pension boards have voted to consolidate their pensions into the state's PERA program. This change still needs to be approved by the City Council, but I believe it will pass. This has the potential to save Minneapolis taxpayers millions of dollars over the long term, end a long drawn out litigation process and stabilize payments in the next several years until, eventually, the programs will be completely managed by the state's Public Employee Retiree Association.
- 5) My office organized a community meeting on the proposed bike lanes on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Aves south from Riverside to Franklin. The project is supported by the Seward Neighborhood Group and Augsburg College, and the overwhelming majority of West Bank residents who have contacted my office. I will support the installation of these lanes, and I look forward to seeing them painted before this winter.

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email

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Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons may call 311 or 612-673-3000. TTY users may call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

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Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2700;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

- 6) The City has allocated another \$70,000 to the cleanup of the pollution at 2600 Minnehaha to help make this a developable parcel, to increase jobs in the city.
- 7) The Council and the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Policy Board continue to be on different tracks when it comes to NRP and the transition to a new framework. It is clear that the Council's action last year to recapture NRP Phase II funds has created significant complications for the new Community Participation Program (CPP). In September, the Policy Board formally asked the Council to unfreeze and fully allocate the Phase II dollars to the neighborhoods most impacted by the tornados of last spring. The Council decided to study that request further and then voted to move forward with a new consolidation plan in order to use the NRP funds for future CPP funding. The Committee of the Whole endorsed a staff plan that would extend 2011 CPP contracts through June 30, 2012, and increase contracted amounts from \$3,000,000 to \$4,500,000 following the 2011 CPP allocation formula. The plan would also authorize staff to proceed with "any work necessary" for the transfer of administrative responsibilities and oversight duties by January 1, 2012; and direct staff to draft revisions to the CPP guidelines and NRP ordinance. These revisions are needed so that we can legally use the NRP funds in 2012-2013 for the CPP. The proposed changes will include the establishment of a restructured NRP Policy Board and inclusion of other NRP statutory requirements like the requirement that at least 52.5% of the funds be spent on housing. The new NRP Policy Board would be the body that would review 2012 and 2013 CPP applications as well as approve and monitor Phase I and Phase II NRP Action Plans and plan modifications. The role of the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission during these two years is unclear and would be re-evaluated in light of this. The ordinance changes are projected to return to the Council for review and possible approval in November.
- 8) The Managed Natural Landscape ordinance I authored passed the Council unanimously. I see this as a major step forward in allowing and encouraging residents to use more ecologically sustainable plantings in their yards, with all the attendant improvements to storm water management, biodiversity, air quality and more.
- 9) The resolution I authored creating the City's first-ever Homegrown Minneapolis Food Policy Council has passed the Council unanimously. Now we need applicants to serve on it. Applicants may be people with experience working with one or more aspects of our food system or people who have strong interest in making the food system more healthy, sustainable and local. The council will develop policies and advise elected leaders on ways to expand access to healthy, sustainable, and locally grown foods. Applications available at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards-and-commissions>.
- 10) Mahdi Hassan Ali, the person most responsible for the triple slaying in Seward in January of last year, has been found guilty on multiple counts of first and second degree homicide. I hope that this gives the families of the victims some peace. I will continue to work on youth violence prevention policies and programs, to try to keep tragedies like this from occurring in the future.
- 11) Amy Senser, the driver who hit and killed True Thai chef Anousone "Ped" Phanthavong, has been charged with a felony in this case. I am glad to see charges brought. It is absolutely unacceptable to leave the scene of an accident, any accident, much less one involving a pedestrian. It is entirely possible, given the close proximity of Fairview Hospital, that Ms. Senser's decision to flee contributed to Mr. Phanthavong's death. My heart goes out to Ped's family and friends at True Thai.
- 12) The Farmers Market ordinance I have been working on will come before the Regulatory Energy and Environment committee on **October 24<sup>th</sup>**, at 1:30pm. This ordinance, if passed, will dramatically improve the regulatory processes for farmers markets, and require that most vendors at farmers markets be local growers.
- 13) The new adult day care at Seward Square Apartments, located at 2121 S 9<sup>th</sup> St, has been approved by the Planning Commission. This project was also reviewed and approved by the Seward Neighborhood Group.
- 14) Two Council committees have approved moving ahead with street improvements near the Franklin Light Rail Station that will consist of improvements to the pedestrian realm from Bloomington Ave S to 21<sup>st</sup> Ave S and will include the installation of lighting along the corridor and under the Hiawatha and LRT bridges, installing pedestrian countdown crossing timers on the signals, new pedestrian ramps at the intersections, some curb modifications resulting in reduced pedestrian crossing distances, and the installation of boulevard trees. It will also include the reconstruction and realignment of E 22<sup>nd</sup> St between Minnehaha Ave and Cedar Ave to provide a new right-in/right-out connection to Cedar Ave.
- 15) **Applications are now being accepted for the over 80 open positions** on 16 boards and commissions that the City Council and Mayor will appoint this fall. Applications will be reviewed beginning September 30; however the positions are open until filled. For a full list of position descriptions see [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email [cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov).